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ABSTRACT

This report describes the advantages and utilization of an architectural design technique known as on-the-spot design, which involves the production of basic plans (by a team of architects, city planners, and engineers) at the location where the project is to be constructed. On-the-spot design techniques are described for a dormitory for the Harding College Graduate School of Bible and Religion. After discussing the formulation of design concepts to be incorporated, sketches and analyses are presented to show the transition from concept to form and function in efforts to achieve meaningful solutions to design problems. [Hard copy not available due to marginal legibility of original document.] (FS)

ED035198

ON-THE-SPOT DESIGN OF A SCHOOL FOR RELIGION

FRANK D. LAWYER

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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INVESTIGATION NO. 4

ON-THE-SPOT DESIGN OF A SCHOOL FOR RELIGION

BY

FRANK D. LAWYER

SEPTEMBER 1960

WHY THIS REPORT

CRS has always been research minded. This attitude stemmed from close association with the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

As far back as 1952, the firm began sharing its research reports. This series was called "research-architecture." In 1954, CRS was commissioned by the American School and University to prepare a second series of research reports. These reports were widely distributed in the hope of improving schoolhouses of America. A third series called INVESTIGATIONS, was initiated in 1960.

This report is one of the latest series. Some of these INVESTIGATIONS involve actual research, while others represent current thoughts of some CRS staff members. There will also be times when guest professionals are brought in to contribute to the series. INVESTIGATIONS will cover various areas of architecture.

CRS hopes that this report will in some small way help our clients and professional friends achieve a better environment for themselves and their neighbors.

ON-THE-SPOT DESIGN OF A SCHOOL FOR RELIGION

THIS REPORT CONCERNS A "SQUATTERS." IN CRS THIS TERM MEANS THE NIGHT AND DAY EFFORT OF PRODUCING BASIC PLANS IN THE NEAR VICINITY OF A PROJECT. THIS TECHNIQUE HAS LONG BEEN A FAVORITE OF OUR FIRM, AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW, IT IS UNIQUE WITH US. IT DEVELOPED AS A SOLUTION TO THE FIRM'S DISTANCE PROBLEM, AND WAS USED ON OUR FIRST MAJOR PROJECT 525 MILES FROM HOME BASE.

On-The-Spot Design

OUR CLIENTS KNOW THIS TECHNIQUE BY THE MORE DIGNIFIED NAME OF ON-THE-SPOT DESIGN. IT INVOLVES A TEAM OF ARCHITECTS, CITY PLANNERS, AND ENGINEERS. THESE MEN, CAREFULLY SELECTED FOR THE SPECIFIC JOB IN MIND, MOVE INTO THE LOCATION WHERE THE PROJECT IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED. FOR A THREE TO TEN-DAY PERIOD, DEPENDING UPON THE SIZE OF THE JOB, THESE DESIGNERS SET UP SHOP, SOMETIMES IN A SPACE NEAR THE CLIENT'S OFFICE, SOMETIMES IN A HOTEL, OR SOMETIMES IN THE OFFICE OF A LOCAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE.

WE FIND ON-THE-SPOT DESIGN, OR "SQUATTERS" IF YOU PLEASE, A VALUABLE TOOL IN OUR WORK FOR THESE REASONS:

1. WE GET TO KNOW OUR CLIENTS BETTER.
2. WE GET TO KNOW THE SITE AND LOCALE BETTER.
3. THE HIGHLY CONCENTRATED NIGHT AND DAY ENDEAVOR MAKES US THINK WITH A LITTLE MORE CLARITY.
4. WE ARE SPARED THE INTERRUPTIONS USUALLY FOUND IN A BUSY OFFICE.
5. OUR CLIENT CAN LOOK OVER OUR SHOULDERS AND SEE HIS PROJECT GROW FROM CONCEPTS TO ROUGH SKETCHES TO BASIC PLANS.

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6. AND OF EVEN GREATER IMPORTANCE, OUR CLIENT IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE DESIGN TEAM.

7. IN THE CASE OF A LOCAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATE, WE CAN BENEFIT BY HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE EARLY STAGES, AS WELL AS IN THE SUPERVISORY STAGE.

THE JOB AT HAND

THE PARTICULAR "SQUATTERS" BEING REVIEWED TOOK PLACE IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, BETWEEN JUNE 13 AND JUNE 17, 1960. MEMBERS OF THE CRS DESIGN TEAM INCLUDED BILL CAUDILL, HERB PASEUR, BILL LACY, OUR ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS, HENRY SANFORD AND CHARLES ELLIS, AND ME. OUR MISSION WAS TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE HARDING COLLEGE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIBLE AND RELIGION AND TO DO THE BASIC DESIGN FOR A BOYS' DORMITORY, THE FIRST NEW UNIT TO BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE MASTER PLAN.

ON ARRIVAL AT THE MEMPHIS CAMPUS OF HARDING COLLEGE, WE MET A GREAT LEADER OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST, DR. GEORGE BENSON, PRESIDENT OF HARDING COLLEGE.

FORMULATING THE DESIGN CONCEPTS

THE FOLLOWING CONCEPTS RESULTED FROM OUR INTERVIEWS WITH: DR. BENSON AND FACULTY MEMBERS, DR. W. B. WEST, PROFESSOR JACK P. LEWIS, AND EVERETT R. ANDERSON; REV. J. M. POWELL OF MEMPHIS; AND SIX OF THE MINISTERIAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL:

1. THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST ARE VIGOROUSLY ALIVE. THEY REPRESENT GROWTH -- PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL. THE CHURCHES ARE SERVED BY SIMPLE MEN OF STRONG CONVICTIONS, MEN WHO OPPOSE SHAM. THESE MEN WISH TO RESTORE RATHER THAN TO REFORM. THEY SEEK TRUTH AT THE SOURCE, NOT ALONG THE MUDDLED WAY. THE BIBLE IS THEIR SOURCE.

2. IF ARCHITECTURE TRULY REFLECTS ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE, AND THE SCHOLARS TELL US IT DOES, THEN WHAT KIND OF ARCHITECTURE SHOULD SURROUND THE FUTURE LEADERS OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST? WHAT SHOULD THE CAMPUS OF THE SCHOOL OF BIBLE AND RELIGION BE LIKE?

THE KEY IS IN THE NAME - - SCHOOL OF BIBLE AND RELIGION. THE NAME ITSELF EMPHASIZES THE EDUCATIONAL ACCENT. DR. WEST SPELLS IT OUT EVEN MORE. HE SAYS "GOD, CHRIST, AND THE BIBLE OCCUPY THE SUPREME PLACE IN THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF THE SCHOOL OF BIBLE AND RELIGION." THIS UNSWERVING LOYALTY TO THE BIBLE SHOULD BE REFLECTED IN ARCHITECTURE.

3. THE NEW CAMPUS SHOULD BE SYMBOLIC OF VIGOR, STRENGTH, AND SINCERITY. TWENTIETH CENTURY BOXES COVERED WITH EXPENSIVE FOURTEENTH CENTURY GOTHIC SAUCE WON'T DO. COLONIAL SLIPCOVERS OR FALSE GEORGIAN DRAPINGS WHICH HIDE THE REFLECTIONS OF THIS DAY WITH DEAD AND MEANINGLESS ORNAMENTATION OF YESTERDAY LACK PROPRIETY. THERE SHOULD BE NO SHAM. THE KIND OF ARCHITECTURE WE WANT IS NEITHER ELABORATE NOR BANAL. LIKE THE RELIGION WHICH IT REPRESENTS, IT MUST BE SIMPLE, HONEST, AND MEANINGFUL. THE NEW CAMPUS SHOULD HAVE A SPIRIT - - AN ARCHITECTURAL SPIRIT THAT HELPS THESE YOUNG PEOPLE DISCOVER BEAUTY AS WELL AS TRUTH, THAT LIFTS THEM TO GREATER ACHIEVEMENT.

4. "AMERICA'S ONE HOPE IS A REVIVAL OF CHRISTIAN ZEAL." THIS STATEMENT BY DR. BENSON EXPLAINS WHY HARDING COLLEGE IS DEDICATED TO THE IDEA THAT THE SURVIVAL OF AMERICA DEPENDS UPON THE REALIZATION OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. IT IS THE INTENT OF

THE GRADUATE PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL OF BIBLE AND RELIGION TO HELP FULFILL THIS REALIZATION. IT SHOULD BE THE INTENT OF THE ARCHITECTURE WHICH FACILITATES THIS PROGRAM TO INSPIRE AND STIMULATE DEDICATED, YOUNG SCHOLARS TO FIND THEIR WAY INTO EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

5. DR. BENSON SAID "WE DON'T CATER TO ANY PARTICULAR STYLE AS SUCH, BUT WE DO WANT BUILDINGS THAT HAVE MASS AND DIGNITY." LIKE SO MANY OF US, DR. BENSON RESPECTS BUILDINGS THAT HAVE A FEELING OF PERMANENCY. BRICK, ONE OF THE OLDEST OF MATERIALS, HELPS GIVE THIS FEELING. CONCRETE IS ANOTHER TRADITIONAL MATERIAL AND DATES AS FAR BACK AS THE ROMANS.

WE BELIEVE THAT BY USING THE SAME KIND OF BRICK AS THAT OF THE EXISTING BUILDING, TOGETHER WITH EXPOSING THE WHITE CONCRETE STRUCTURE, WE CAN ACHIEVE A VERY PLEASING ARCHITECTURAL HARMONY WITHOUT THE LIMITATIONS OF UNIFORMITY.

THE AIM IS TO DEVELOP A PLAIN, SIMPLE, STRAIGHTFORWARD, ARCHITECTURE THAT WILL HAVE A MASSIVE AND PERMANENT FEELING WITH THE DIGNITY OF ITS INTENT.

6. TREES, GRASS, SHRUBS, AND BEAUTIFUL BUILDINGS! THESE ARE THE ELEMENTS OF A STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT FOR LEARNING. BUT GREAT CAMPUSES HAVE ANOTHER ELEMENT. WATER! HERE ON OUR CAMPUS WITH VERY LITTLE EXPENSE WE CAN HAVE WATER TO ENRICH THE NATURAL SETTING. WE NEED ONLY SCOOP OUT A FEW YARDS OF EARTH, MOVE IT TO THE LOWER END OF THE RAVINE, BUILD A SMALL DAM AND WE CAN HAVE A BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS POND.

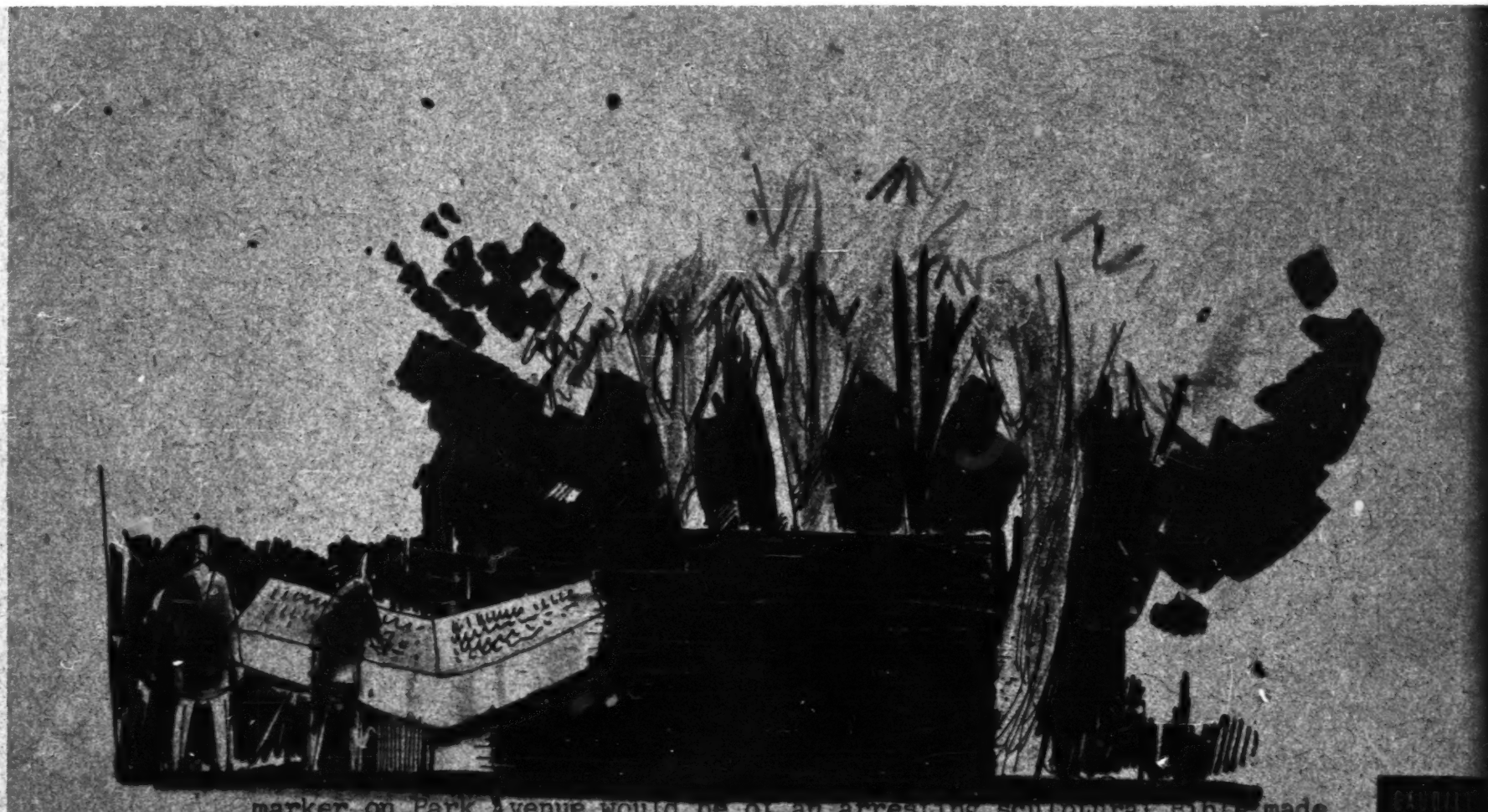
7. THE NEW CAMPUS SHOULD BE UNIQUE. ITS PURPOSE IS NOT TO TRAIN GREAT ENGINEERS. LET M.I.T. DO THAT JOB. ITS PURPOSE IS NOT TO TRAIN BUSINESS EXECUTIVES AS IS DONE IN THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL BY THE CHARLES RIVER. BUT HERE AT 1000 CHERRY ROAD IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, THE JOB AT HAND IS CLEAR. IT IS TO TRAIN GREAT PREACHERS OF THE GOSPEL, MISSIONARIES, DIRECTORS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, AND OTHER SERVANTS. OUR NEW CAMPUS SHOULD SPEAK IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS, "I HAVE A JOB TO DO. I DO IT WELL. I HELP THE PROFESSORS TEACH. I STIMULATE LEARNING. AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, I CREATE A RELIGIOUS ATTITUDE. I HELP MAKE THESE YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL CLOSER TO JESUS." SUCH IS OUR CHALLENGE.

FROM CONCEPTS TO SKETCHES

"IF THERE BE ANY PRINCIPLE OF STRUCTURE MORE PLAINLY INCULCATED IN THE WORKS OF THE CREATOR THAN ALL OTHERS, IT IS THE PRINCIPLE OF UNFLINCHING ADAPTATION OF FORMS TO FUNCTIONS." IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THESE WORDS BY HORATIO GREENOUGH WERE STATED ABOUT THE SAME TIME THE RESTORATION MOVEMENT OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST TOOK PLACE OVER A CENTURY AGO, AND SERVE TODAY AS THE PRINCIPLE FOR DESIGNING THE NEW CAMPUS OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIBLE AND RELIGION.

THE DESIGN TEAM FELT THAT THE FORM OF THIS CAMPUS MUST GROW OUT OF THE CONCEPTS AS STATED AND THAT THERE MUST BE "UNFLINCHING ADAPTATION OF FORMS TO FUNCTIONS."

THE FOLLOWING SKETCHES AND ANALYSES SHOW OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE MEANINGFUL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS THROUGH THE USE OF THIS PRINCIPLE.

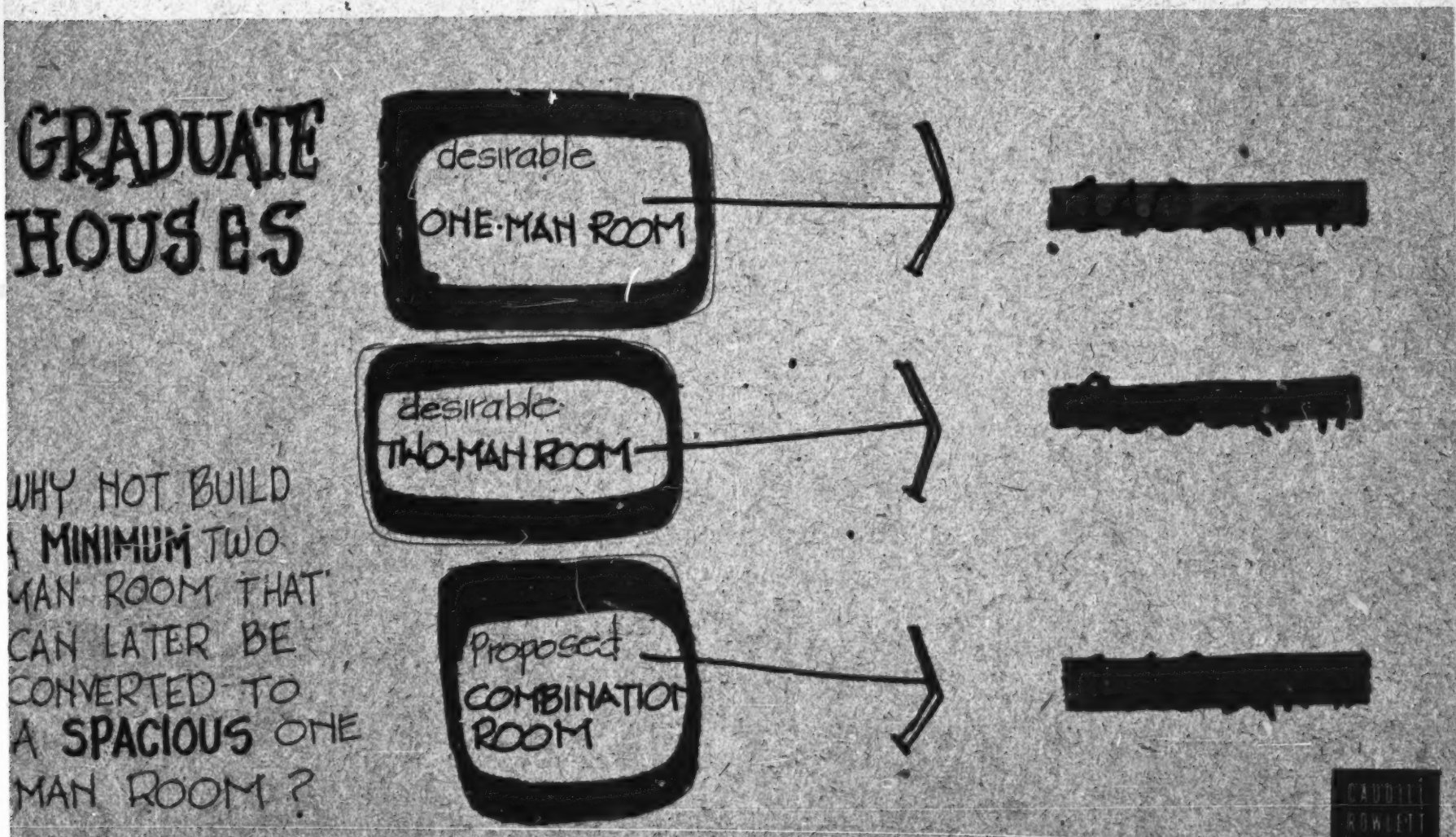


marker on Park Avenue would be of an arresting sculptural Bible made of massive concrete against a background of brick which recalls the brick of the present and future buildings.

GRADUATE HOUSES

Instead of building large dormitories we propose building smaller units. These might have such names as the Thomas Campbell House, the Alexander Campbell House, the Walter R. Scott House, the Barton W. Stone House or carry the name of more recent leaders. Also they might well carry the names of donors.

AN ANALYSIS


GRADUATE HOUSES
desirable ONE-MAN ROOM
desirable TWO-MAN ROOM
Proposed COMBINATION ROOM
WHY NOT BUILD A MINIMUM TWO MAN ROOM THAT CAN LATER BE CONVERTED TO A SPACIOUS ONE MAN ROOM?
CAUDILL ROWLETT SCOTT

GRADUATE HOUSES

THIS SCHEME ALLOWS US 3 BIG ADVANTAGES.

1 ELIMINATES THE DREARY CORRIDORS OF THE CONVENTIONAL "HOTEL-LIKE" DORMITORIES AND THE DISRUPTIVE NOISES CAUSED BY THEM... PRODUCES A VARIETY OF ENVIRONMENTS CONDUCIVE TO STUDY AND MEDITATION.

2 THE INFORMAL SPACING OF THE UNITS ENABLES US TO PRESERVE THE TREES ON THE SITE.

3 THE ARRANGEMENT IS SUCH THAT UNITS CAN BE ADDED IN STAGES AS THE COLLEGE NEEDS DICTATE.... SMALL ENOUGH TO BE GIFT OF INDIVIDUAL DONORS.

CAUDILL ROWLETT SCOTT

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THIS "CONVERTIBILITY" OF THE [redacted] COMBINATION [redacted] ROOM COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY:

1 USING "DOUBLE DECK" BEDS TO CONSERVE SPACE IN THE INITIAL STAGE.

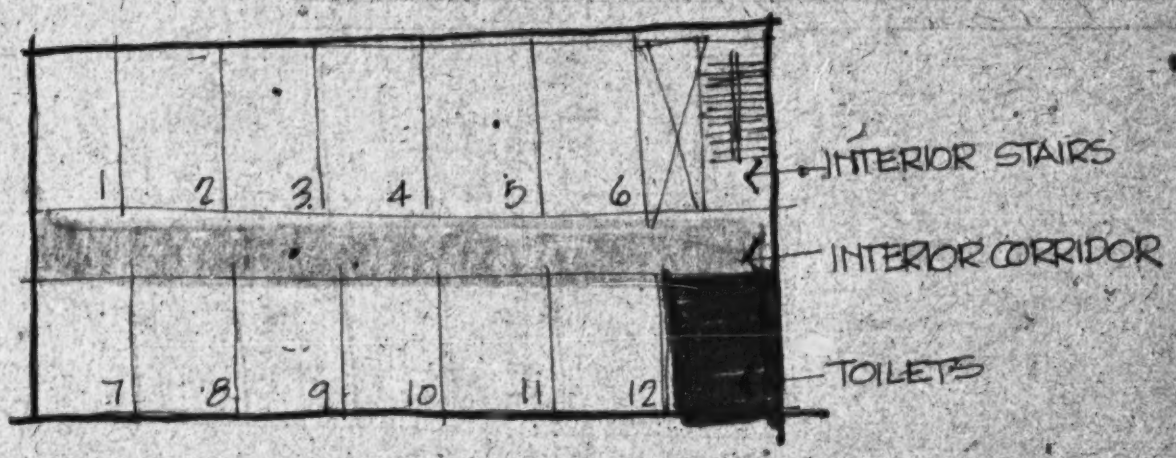
2 USING ALL MOVABLE STORAGE UNITS AND DESKS.

GRADUATE HOUSES

CAUDILL ROWLETT SCOTT

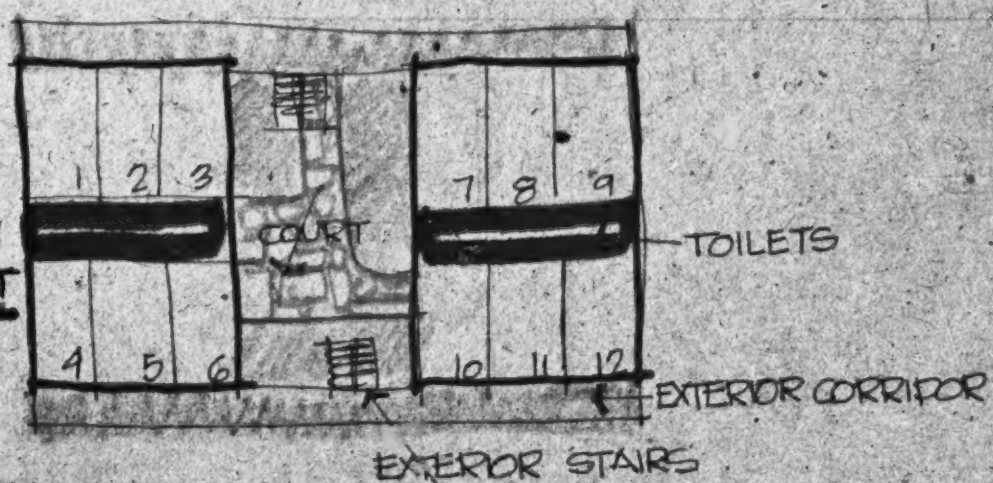
GRADUATE HOUSES

CONVENTIONAL DORMITORY



THE CONVENTIONAL DORMITORY IS DESIGNED FOR MASS EFFICIENCY

PROPOSED GRADUATE HOUSES



THE PROPOSED GRADUATE HOUSES ARE DESIGNED WITH THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT IN MIND.

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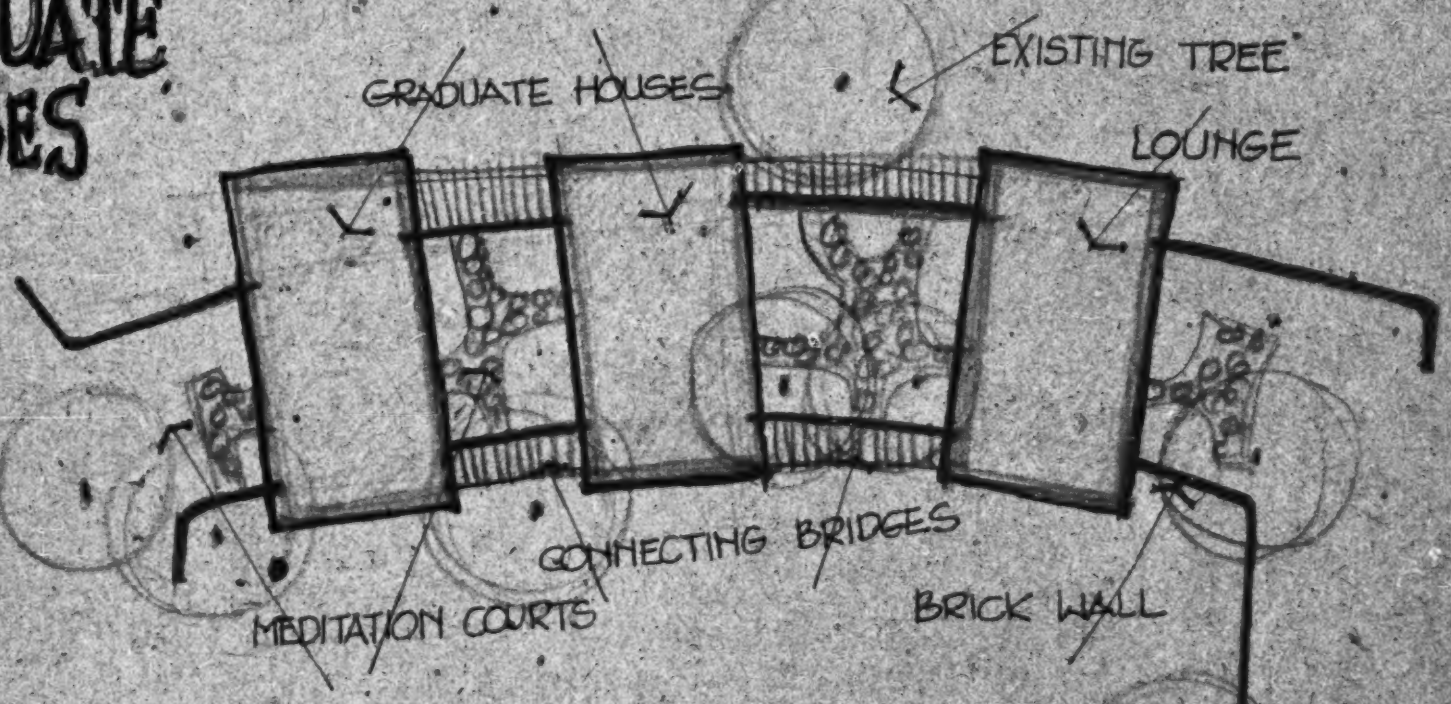
GRADUATE HOUSES



PLEASANT, INFORMAL, DIGNIFIED LIVING QUARTERS FOR THE MATURE GRADUATE STUDENT....

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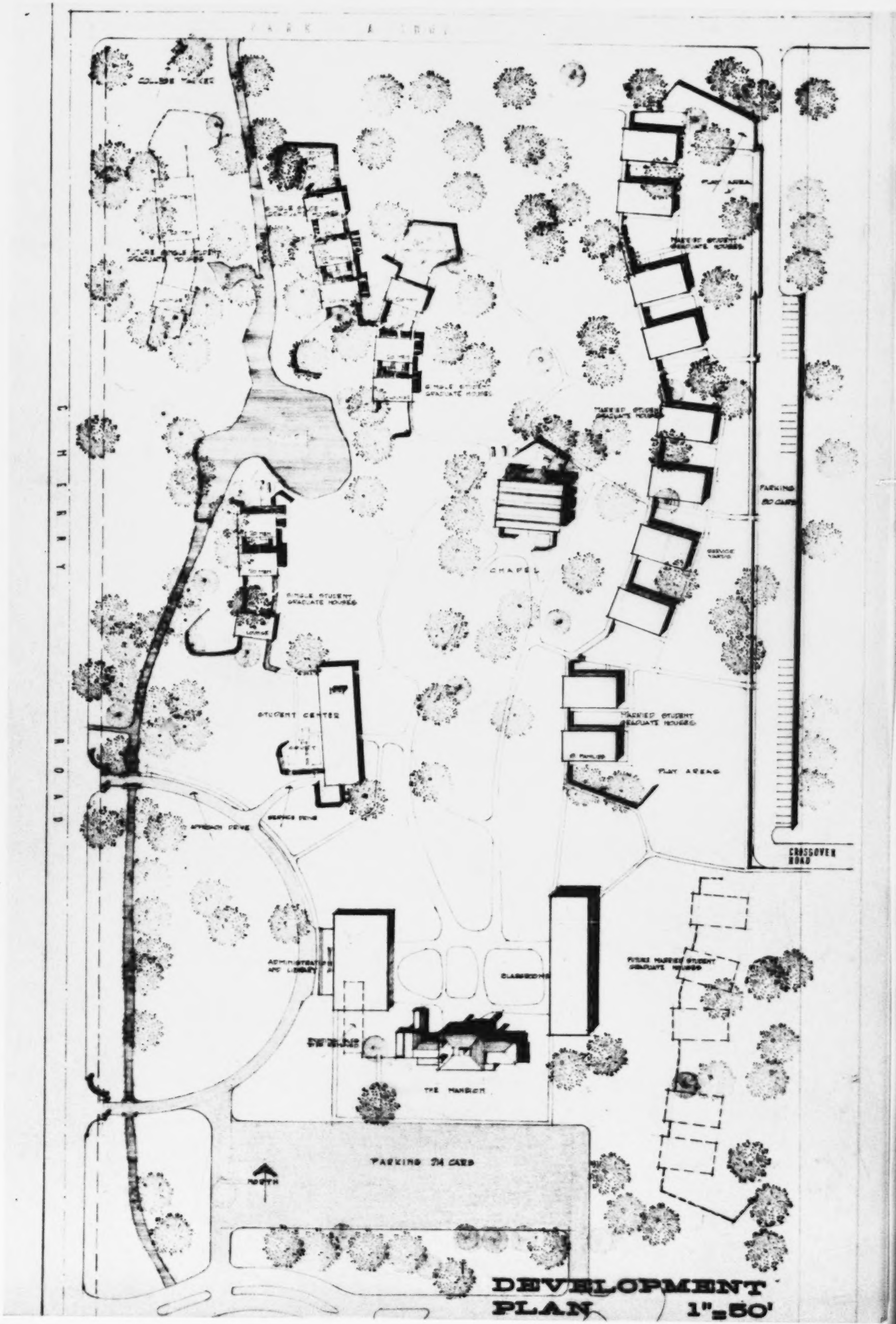
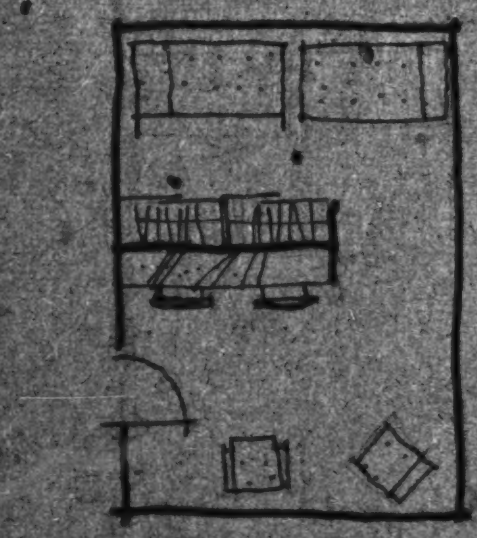


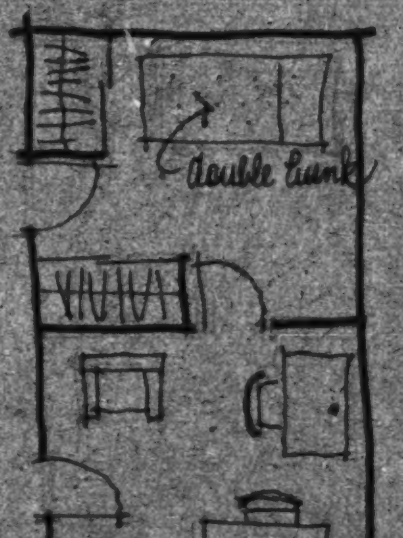
DEVELOPMENT PLAN 1"=50'

HARDING COLLEGE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIBLE AND RELIGION, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

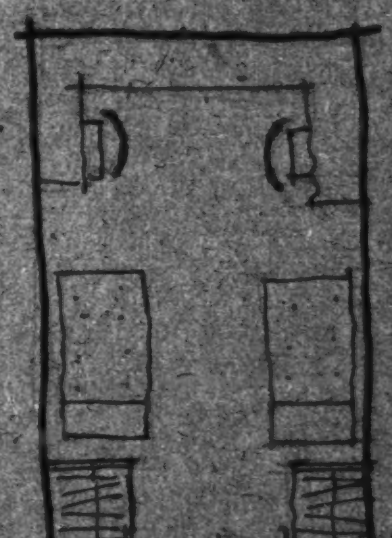
2-MAN ROOM ARRANGEMENT



Study-Sleep areas



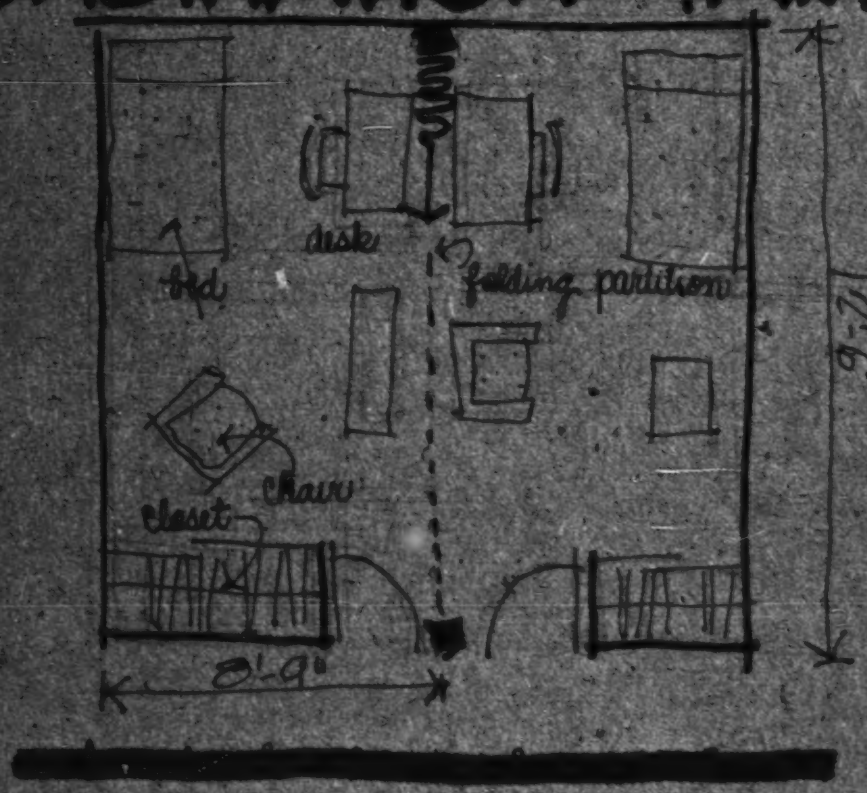
Study-Sleep area

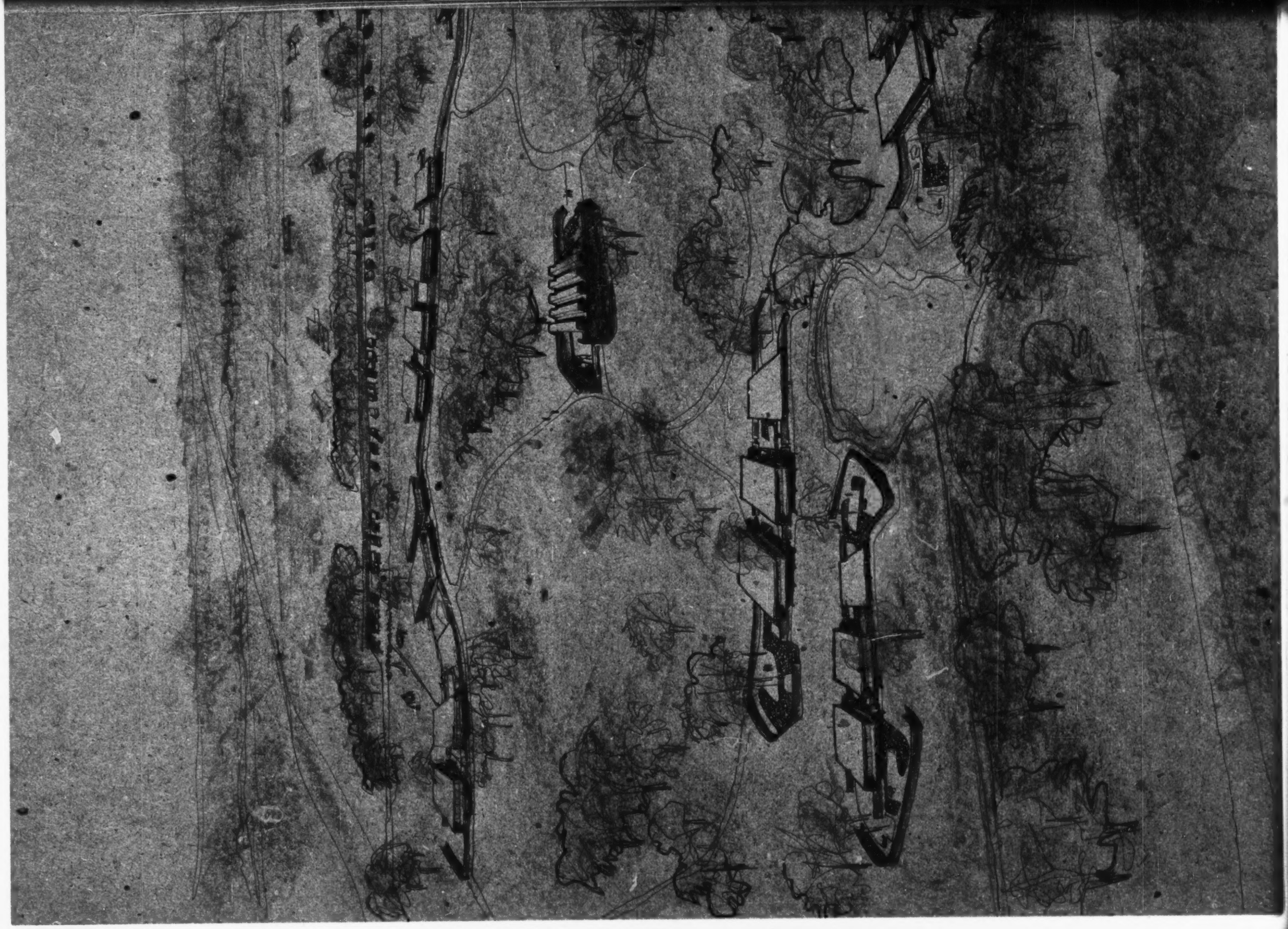


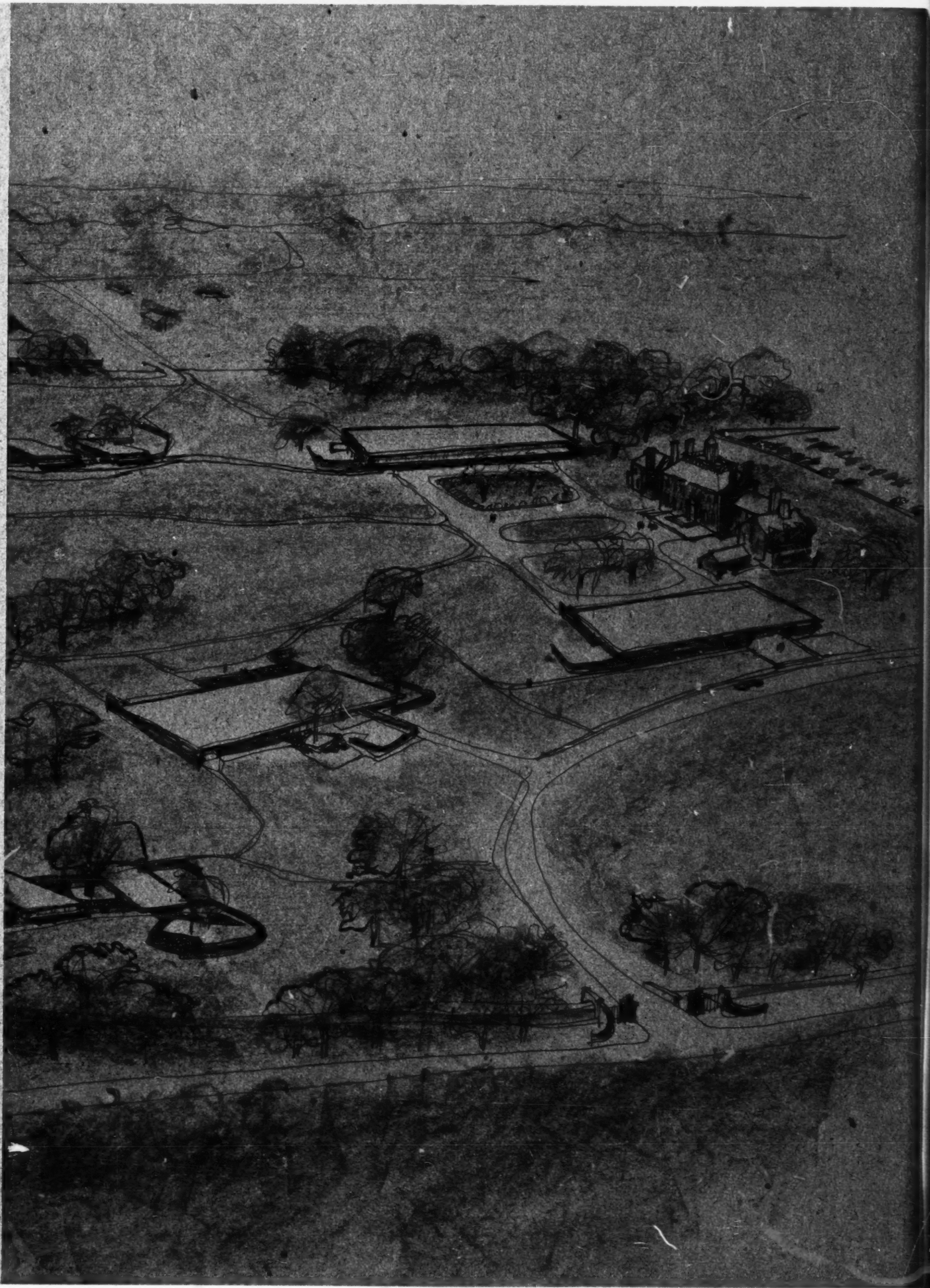
Study-Sleep ar

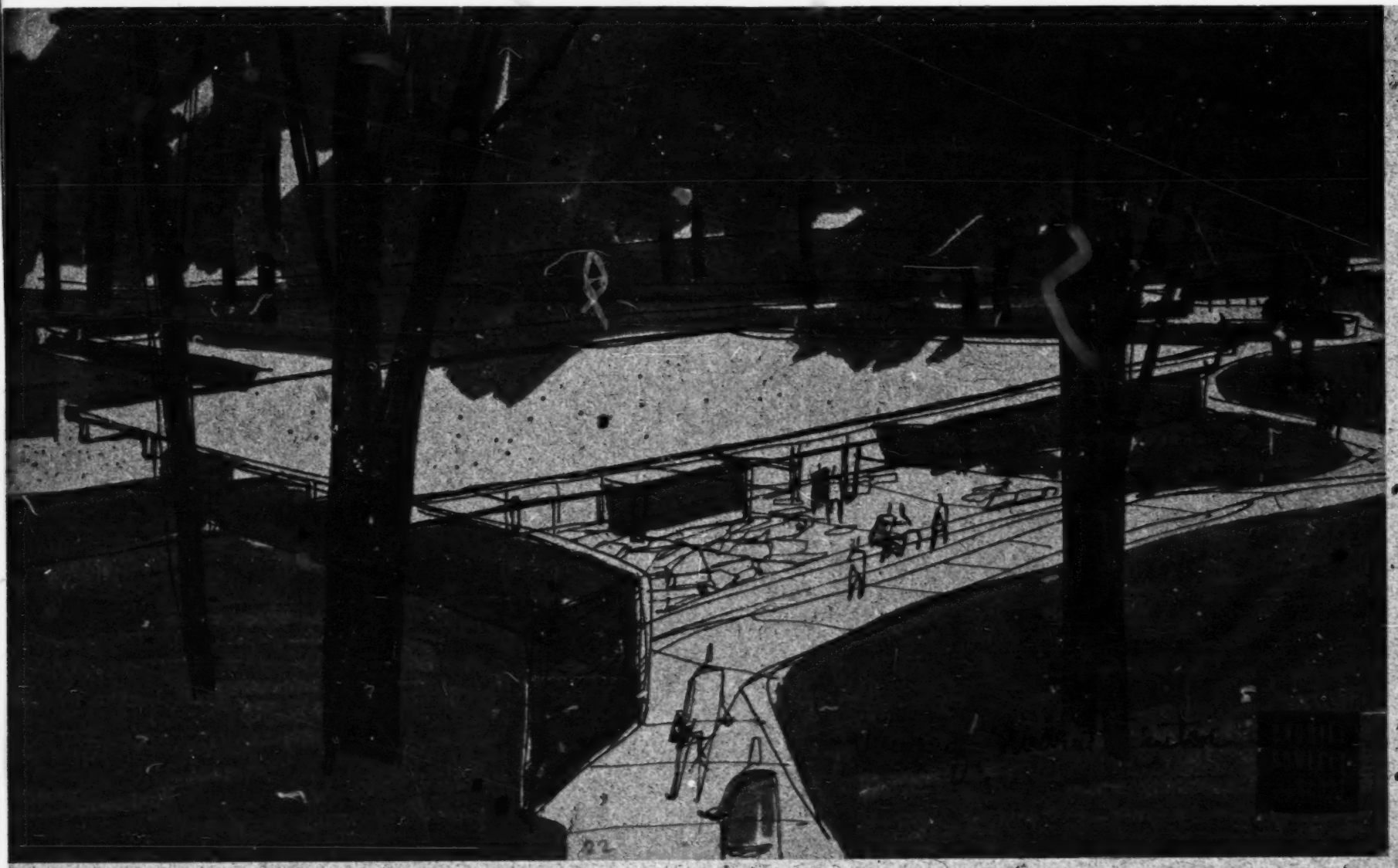
HARDING COLLEGE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIBLE AND RELIGION, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

COMBINATION ARRANGEMENT



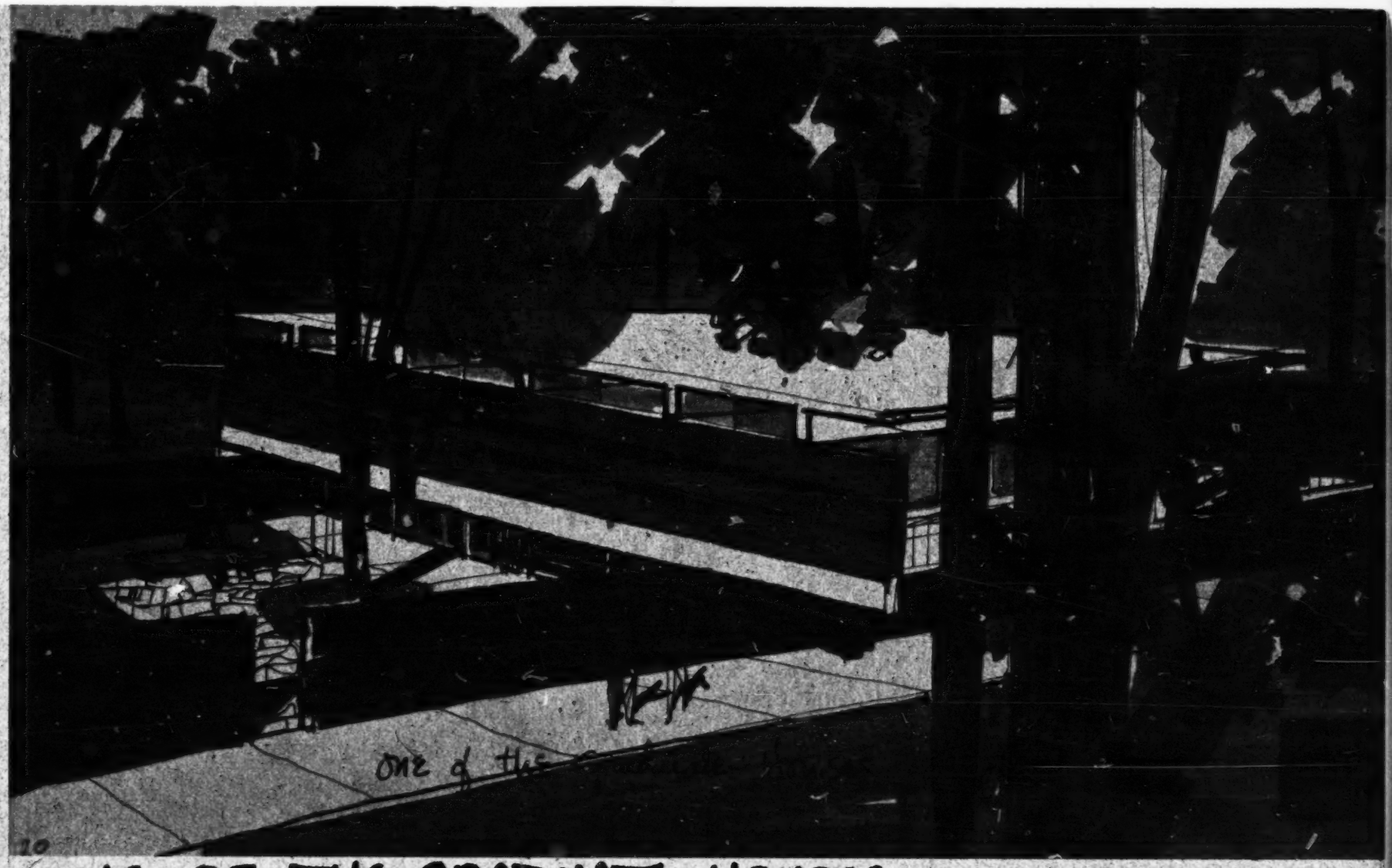






VIEW OF STUDENT CENTER

VIEW OF CHAPEL FROM CHERRY RO



ONE OF THE GRADUATE HOUSES

A VIEW OF MEDITATION COURT AT THEGRADUATE HOUSE

INVESTIGATION SERIES

NUMBER	TITLE	AUTHOR
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2	AIR CONDITIONING OF SCHOOLS	WILLIAM W. CAUDILL WILLIAM M. PENA JOE B. THOMAS
3	DECENTRALIZED SCHOOL VS. CENTRALIZED SCHOOL	C. HERBERT PASEUR
4	ON-THE-SPOT DESIGN OF A SCHOOL FOR RELIGION	FRANK D. LAWYER

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HOUSTON 6, TEXAS